

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application: **(AS ON AMENDED SHEET(S) ANNEXED TO IPER)**

Claims 1-11. (cancelled)

12. (new) An implantable prosthesis for the repair of muscle wall defects, the prosthesis comprising a flexible plug of a surgically compatible mesh material, wherein the plug has an elongate form whose cross-sectional profile comprises three or more projecting, longitudinal lobes and the apices of said lobes are joined so as to form at least two linear sides.

13. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, wherein the plug has a prismatic shape.

14. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, wherein the cross-sectional profile comprises three lobes.

15. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 14, wherein the apices of all three lobes are joined by linear sides, providing a generally triangular cross-sectional profile.

16. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, wherein the cross-sectional profile comprises more than three lobes.

17. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, whereby the plug has an open side in the form of a triangular profiled trough.

18. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 17, wherein the shape is maintained by an internal support formed by mesh material.

19. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, wherein the elongate mesh material forming the plug has internal longitudinal webs to support the profile of the mesh.

20. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 19, wherein the webs are an integral part of the mesh configured by folding or formed by separate parts bonded to the inner surface of the outer profile.

21. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, wherein three, or more, elongate sub-units are connected to form the prosthesis, each of said sub-units preferably being of a triangular profile.

22. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, wherein the wall

of the mesh is pleated circumferentially, or longitudinally to provide a degree of flexibility and compressibility, to facilitate placement into a defect comprising a hernia.

23. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, adapted whereby the mesh plug may be cut to an appropriate required dimension from a stock length piece.

24. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, formed by a plurality of individual units connected in a longitudinal side-by-side relationship, preferably with such units individually have a prismatic profile.

25. (new) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 12, wherein the mesh material comprises polypropylene with jointing, if required, achieved by heat sealing.

26. (new) The use of an implantable prosthesis having the construction of claim 12 in the treatment of elongate or rectangular openings such as are found with inguinal hernia defects.